Hibben, John Greer (President, Princeton University) Sept 1917 - April 1918

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Hibben, John Grier (President, Princeton University)

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September 10th, 1917

My dear President Hibben:

It was very good of you to take the time to write to me about your visit to Nova Scotia and Quebec, especially as I know from experience that on your return there will be a great many duties which have been awaiting you which would absorb your time.

I have just returned from a week's visit to Halifax and there I heard on all sides the kindest appreciation of the visit of Mrs. Hibben and yourself to Halifax. Last Wednesday night I had dinner with the Governor and Mrs. Grant who told me how much they had enjoyed the few days you spent with them. President Mackenzie also mentioned that he had received word from you about your trip to Cape Breton. If Mrs. Hibben and yourself enjoyed Nova Scotia I know that my friends were no less pleased at having you in their midst.

We are all home and it will not take long for us to be in the midst of hard work again. So far as our indications enable us to judge at present the attendance of men students is likely to be smaller in the coming academic year than even it was last year. How long is this terrible war with its drain on our youth going to continue ? This question I answer to myself much more hopefully because of the fact that you are now by our side strengthening us in the most splendid way possible. We have indeed gone through a revolution of which we are barely aware. To have your students training in American uniforms on our university campus; to have our students in their uniforms training in Texas during the winter, and

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to bid God-speed to thousands of American soldiers at Halifax who are being convoyed to France in British steamers under British escort is such a change in our whole attitude that the generations that are to come after us will probably say that the war in spite of all its horrors might well have been fought to create such a new world.

Will you be kind enough to give my best remembrances to Mrs. Bitten ?

Yours very sincerely,

President.

March 21st, 1918

President Hibben,

Princeton University.

My dear President Hibben:

A member of our staff wrote to me a few days ago objecting to having President Douglas Mackenzie of Hartford come to the University on the ground that he was a pacifist and that the Seminary at Hartford was a hotbed of pacifism. I wrote to him that this seemed to me to be incredible, but that I would satisfy myself as to the correctness of his statement. Can you give me any information as to the position of President Mackenzie on this matter? I know that he often goes to Princeton, but if you do not know yourself perhaps you could advise me to whom I should consult in order to get a definite opinion.

I hope that you have not been feeling the strain of the winter too heavy and can well realize how severe it must have been in view of the great depletion that the war has made in your ranks. It is one of those instances in which the performance of patriotic duty must have brought you a very heavy personal burden.

A few weeks ago I was in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania and saw Princeton on my way to New York, but had not time to stay over and pay my respects to you. Will you please give my kind remembrances to Mrs. Hibben? I suppose there is no chance of your coming this way during the summer. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

April 8th, 1918

President Hibben,

Princeton University.

My dear President Hibben:

Many thanks for your letter. What you tell me about President Wachsmuth will be very useful. I did not think that one would have any doubt as to his genuine loyalty.

I am sorry to know that you have not been well, but hope that it is a mere temporary cause of a somewhat curious experience at this time of the year. Probably the strain under which you have been has been telling on you.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Hibben,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.